Attractive pay and perks for armed forces

*539. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of personnel leave armed forces mainly due to inadequate pay and perks; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps proposed to be taken by the Union Government to offer a more attractive pay and perks to armed forces personnel down from the soldiers to senior officers level?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) There is no large departure of officers from the Defence Forces. Defence personnel leave service on account of various reasons. Defence Forces personnel are allowed to leave service on account of various reasons like supersession, extreme compassionate grounds, low medical category, failure to acquire minimum educational qualification, etc. However, these cases are examined on case to case basis subject to the exigencies of service. The number of officers who applied for premature retirement/resignation and the number of officers who were permitted to leave service due to various reasons during the last 5 years (2003-2007) is given below:

Army		Air Force		Navy	
Applied	Released	Applied	Released	Applied	Released
3474	2076	1269	793	954	780

The pay, allowances and other benefits admissible to the Defence Forces personnel are as per Government orders issued from time to time. These are also examined by the Central Pay Commissions set up by the Government. Improvement of service conditions, pay and allowances of Defence Service personnel is a continuous exercise.

Implementation of flood management plan by NDMA

*540. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR:
SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:
Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) is staffed with professionally trained personnel to ensure effective implementation of the 13-point plan for flood management; and

(b) whether there is provision for periodic monitoring mechanism to check the preparedness, prior identification of the source of supply of equipment for prior warning, actual handling of flood control activities, relief measures and association with the NGOs, at the nodal district level?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI): (a) and (b) The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) gets professional/expert inputs by engaging consultants/specialists as well as by holding meetings with experts from other Ministries/Departments and Government/Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) etc.

The comprehensive guidelines on "Management of Floods" issued by NDMA in January, 2008, *inter alia* provide for preparation of Flood Management Plans at national, state and district levels covering all aspects of the disaster management cycle including the implementation schedule and monitoring system.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Import of edible and inedible oil

†3854. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is importing edible and inedible oil from abroad;

(b) if so, the names of the countries from where the said oils are being improted alongwith the quantity and prices thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that there has been a 40 to 60 per cent increase in the prices of edible oils in international market during the last one year and it has affected the domestic market also; and

(d) whether Government would contemplate on the scheme of enhacing the production of oilseeds in the country by increasing the minimum support price?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The said oils are being imported mainly from the following countries:—

Argentina, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brazil, Canada, Germany, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Malaysia, Nepal, Netherlands, Philippines, Qatar, Russia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, Ukraine, United States of America.

The value of imports of Animal and Vegetable fats and oils and their products covered under Chapter 15 of ITC(HS) Classification of Export and Import Items during Apr. 07 to Sept. 07 is Rs. 6095.03 crores.

The category and country-wise details are given in the publication 'Monthly Statistics of Foreign Trade of India; Volume-II (Imports) Annual Number' published by Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, which is available in the library of the Parliament.

(c) It is true that international as well as domestic prices of edible oils have shown an increasing trend during the last year and it has effected the domestic market also.

(d) The Government has already announced the Minimum Support Price of Rabi and Kharif crops for 2007-08. In order to increase production and productivity and thereby the returns to farmers, besides MSP Schemes, the Government has taken several initiatives like Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, enhancing institutional credit flow to the farmers, ensuring timely availability of quality inputs, optimizing the efficient utilization of available water resources through micro irrigation and enhancing the sustainability of dry land/rain fed farming systems and reforming agricultural markets.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.